

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 COTONO 00159 221311Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 SY-05 SSO-00 /020 W

-----221324Z 011919 /44

O 221231Z JAN 77 ZFF4

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9282

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 159

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, CASC, DM

SUBJECT: BENIN COUP: RELEASE OF CRO DAVIS

REF: STATE 14220

1. EMBASSY SENT NOTE TO MFA AND PRESIDENCY THIS MORNING WITHDRAWING REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENTS WITH MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND PRESIDENT. WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT PROTEST BY DEAN OF CORP REGARDING DETENTION OF DIPLOMATS.

2. DAVIS GAVE EMBASSY COMPLETE RUNDOWN ON THE EVENTS THAT HE SAW SUNDAY MORNING AS WELL AS DETENTION AND STATEMENT THAT HE SIGNED. WILL REPORT HIS OBSERVATIONS ON "COMBAT ACTION" SEPARATELY.

3. STATEMENT WHICH DAVIS SIGNED HE DESCRIBED AS AN EXACT AND ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF HIS INTERROGATION BEFORE A BOARD OF 14 OR 15 MILITARY OFFICIALS ON THURSDAY. VICE-CONSUL NALL, WHO HAD STATEMENT READ TO HIM THURSDAY AND TODAY LISTENED TO DAVIS' DESCRIPTION OF BOTH INTERROGATION AND STATEMENT, AND CONFIRMS ACCURACY AND COMPLETENESS OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT.

4. SUBSTANCE OF SIGNED STATEMENT WAS AS FOLLOWS:
NAME, DATE OF BIRTH, NAMES OF BOTH PARENTS AND THEIR ADDRESS, WHERE HE WORKS (AMEMBASSY), WHAT JOB? (COMMUNICATOR)
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 COTONO 00159 221311Z

WHAT MACHINES DO YOU USE? (I OPERATE A TELETYPE) DO YOU OPERATE A RADIO? (WE HAVE ONE AT THE EMB) DO YOU OPERATE IT? (I CAN) LIST THE COUNTRIES YOU HAVE TRAVELLED IN. (GAVE LIST.) YOU WERE LAST IN LOME, HOW LONG? (TWO WEEKS.) ON VACATION? (NO, WORK.) WHERE IS YOUR PERMANENT DUTY STATION? (WASHINGTON D.C.) WHEN DID YOU BECOME A COMMUNICATIONS AGENT TRAVELLING IN AFRICA? (MAY 1976)

WHAT DID YOU DO BEFORE? (PERMANENT DUTY STATION IN INDONESIA)
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF EVENTS OF SUNDAY, JANUARY 16? (DONT'T
KNOW, THINK IT'S VERY SERIOUS.) SERIOUS EVENTS? (RIGHT)
WHAT DID YOU SEE: DESCRIBE EVENTS. (NOT SURE, HEARD
SHOOTING AT AIRPORT AND PALACE; COULDN'T SEE ANYTHING.
AT 10.15 SOLDIERS CAME, QUESTIONED ME THEN LEFT.
AT ONE P.M. MORE SOLDIERS CAME, ARRESTED GUESTS, TOOK
US TO POLICE STATION.) INTERROGATED? (NO, HELD TWO
HOURS, TAKEN TO MILITARY CAMP.) HOW LONG DO YOU INTEND
TO STAY IN COTONOU? (SIX WEEKS-TWO MONTHS.) LIST PEOPLE
CONTACTED AND PLACES VISITED SINCE YOUR ARRIVAL. (GAVE
LIST, INCLUDING GOING IN EMB VEHICLE TO AIRPORT FRIDAY
EVENING TO MEET COURIER.) DO YOU THINK MFA INFORMED
OF YOUR ARRIVAL? (NO.) WHY? (NOT NORMAL POLICY INFORM
MFA WHEN DIPS HERE TDY.) WHO DID YOU REPLACE AT EMBASSY?
(BARLOW) WHERE IS HE? (WASHINGTON D.C.) WHY ARE YOU
STAYING IN A HOTEL? (NORMALLY TDY PERSONNEL PUT IN HOTEL.)
ARE YOU ONLY ITINERANT COMMUNICATIONS AGENT TRAVELLING
IN AFRICA? (NO, THERE ARE FOUR.)

5. DAVIS REPORTS NO RPT NO QUESTIONS ON HIS TREATMENT
WHILE IN DETENTION OR QUESTIONS OF A POLITICAL NATURE.
VICE CONSUL CONFIRMS THAT STATEMENT HAD NO SUCH
QUESTIONS.
LASOR

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRISONERS RELEASE, FOREIGN SERVICE STAFF EMPLOYEES, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977COTON000159
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770024-0575
Format: TEL
From: COTONOU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770127/aaaaaxsz.tel
Line Count: 87
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0cc3b7d2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 14220
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3530466
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BENIN COUP: RELEASE OF CRO DAVIS
TAGS: AEMR, CASC, DM, (DAVIS, JOHN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0cc3b7d2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009